

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Willow Historical And Wildlife Foundation (WHWF) Federal Tax ID: 11-3731927****Project Title:****Willow Historical and Wildlife Foundation (WHWF) - Move/Repair Historical Willow Cabin****State Funding Requested: \$ 4,000**  
One-Time Need**House District: 15 - H****Brief Project Description:**

Historical cabin needs to be moved from present location for preservation reasons.

**Funding Plan:****Total Cost of Project: \$4,000**Funding Secured*Amount FY*Other Pending Requests*Amount FY*Anticipated Future Need*Amount FY*

There is no other funding needed

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The cabin of Willow historical figure, Denaina Indian Chief, Shem Pete, has been donated to the WHWF to be displayed as an historical landmark in the future historic Willow Townsite. The cabin needs to be moved this summer from the present location to a secured area; cabin needs to have broken windows replaced and made weather-proofed to prevent further deterioration.

This project was included in SB256 Supplemental Bill as part of the FY08 vetoed projects and was moved to the capital bill.

**Project Timeline:**

FY09

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Willow Historical and Wildlife Foundation

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Contact Name: Jim Huston, President

Phone Number: 495-9000

Address: PO Box 1283, Willow AK 99688

Email: alaskanhost@att.net

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Willow Historical and Wildlife Foundation (WHWF)****Project Title:**

## **Willow Historical and Wildlife Foundation (WHWF) - Move/Repair Historical Willow Cabin**

**Legislator Name:** Senator Huggins**Funding Amount:** \$ 4,000**House District:** 15**District Priority#:** 21**Brief Summary:**

Historical cabin needs to be moved from present location for preservation reasons.

**Funding Plan:****Type of Need:** One-Time Need**Prior Funding to Date:**

None

**Other Funding Requests:**

In-kind volunteer donations

**Project Description:**

The cabin of Willow historical figure, Denaina Indian Chief, Shem Pete, has been donated to the WHWF to be displayed as an historical landmark in the future historic Willow Townsite. The cabin needs to be moved this summer from the present location to a secured area; cabin needs to have broken windows replaced and made weather-proofed to prevent further deterioration.

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Contact Name: Jim Huston, President  
Phone Number: 907-495-9000  
Address: Willow Historical and Wildlife Foundation  
PO Box 183  
Willow AK 99688

Representative concurs with this project.

Representative concurs with this funding level.

*For use by Co-chair Staff Only:*



# Willow Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 183  
Willow, AK 99688  
907-495-6800

April 10, 2007

To: Senator Charlie Huggins

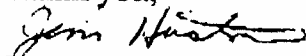
Willow's most famous historical figure is a Denaina Indian Chief, Shem Pete. Shem died several years ago but lived in Willow for most his last 40 years. A picture of his last permanent residence appears in the attached page from the book "Shem Pete's Alaska" front cover also attached. That cabin was recently donated to the Willow Historical and Wildlife Foundation (W.H.W.F.), to be moved, restored, and displayed as an historical landmark. The W.H.W.F. is a 501C3, non-profit foundation who already has about 40 members striving to maintain and document Willow's rich historical heritage.

Where (W.H., W.F.) needs help is financially. Our group has a meager bank account, which will not allow us to accomplish all that is immediately necessary. We are soliciting \$2,000.00 to move the building (as required) off of its present location to a secured area and \$2,000.00 more to replace the broken windows, make it weather proof and safe so that no further deterioration occurs.

Please consider adding an appropriation to the Capital Budget to help our community save this historical building.

Any questions you might have please feel free to call or email Jim Huston, President of the Willow Historical and Wildlife Foundation at 495-9000; [akhost@mtaonline.net](mailto:akhost@mtaonline.net)

Thank you,

  
Jim Huston

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Thank you,

Jim Huston



# **Shem Pete's Alaska**

*The Territory of the Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina*



James Kari and James A. Fall  
Principal contributor Shem Pete  
Foreword by William Bright

## Being With Shem Pete

by Priscilla Russell

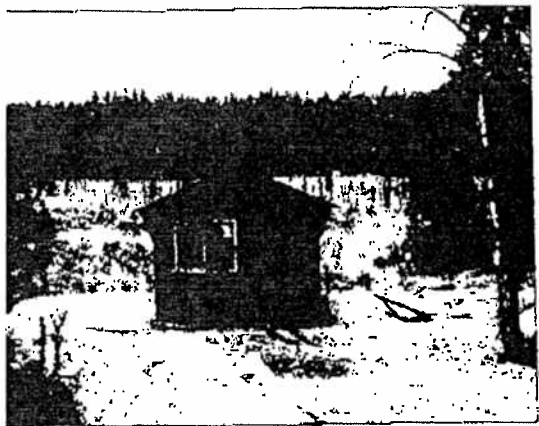


FIG 164

Shem's house after it was moved next to the Willow post in the winter of 1978-79 several Willow residents helped him move his cabin onto a lot next to the Willow post where he missed being near Tudli Bena, Nancy Lake. In the summer of 1979 he and Billy moved to Tyonek, where he lived until 1987.

In the twelve years that I have known Shem Pete, certain outstanding characteristics of his have continued to impress me. The one that comes to mind first is his desire to share, which is a traditional Dena'ina value. It is not his sharing of material goods, however, that is so remarkable but rather his sharing of himself with others. Whenever Shem is a participant in a time of grief or hardship or crisis, he so overwhelms it with his songs and stories and personal words of encouragement that he helps the difficulty to pass, at least for the moment, and transforms the situation into a time of hope and strength. For example, a family summoned Shem to the hospital when their child was lying seriously ill in a coma. Besides comforting the family, Shem also attempted to encourage the boy's doctor by saying, "Oh, I've heard of you. You're the one trying to help all the people." At other times Shem turns ordinary occasions into festive ones through his use of powerful songs and words.

Another trait of Shem's is a strong sense of pride in being a Dena'ina and his dedication to living a Dena'ina-oriented life no matter what the circumstances are. In the early years of his life at Red Shirt Lake and Susitna Station, traditional values of the larger Dena'ina society were still



FIGURE 165

Shem Pete, Shem Pete, and Priscilla Russell along the Richardson Highway in 1978.

Photo by Priscilla Russell





# **Shem Pete's Alaska**

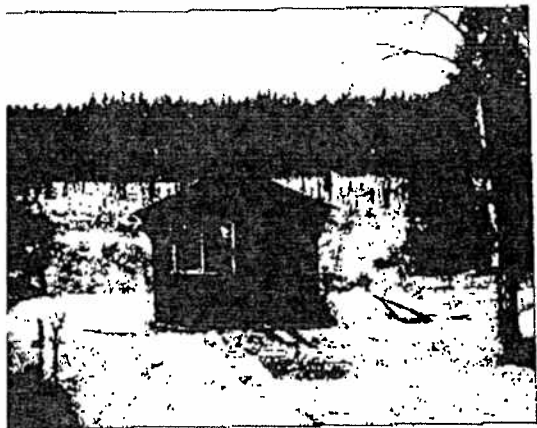
*The Territory of the Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina*



**James Kari and James A. Fall**  
**Principal contributor Shem Pete**  
Foreword by William Bright

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by Priscilla Russell



E 64

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FIGURE 165

Billy Pete, Shem Pete, and  
Priscilla Russell along the  
Richardson Highway in  
1979.